Statistics is used in multiple areas outside the classroom. Some of the ways statistics is used in real life include weather forecasts, emergency preparedness, and the stock market.

Weather forecasts are made by using records of past weather data to predict future conditions; it is the assumption that history will repeat itself. An example of there use is to compile statistical data relating to temperature, to wind direction and velocity to cloudiness, to humidity. That data is put on charts, and those charts provide an estimate of the temperature for the day and from the data of the current conditions. Another statistical approach to prediction is the analog method, it identifies records of past weather conditions that are almost similar to current conditions. It is believed that the same conditions will follow what happened in the past, but due to variables; one is not safe to assume the past and present will match. In weather forecasting, one should also mention hurricanes; the statistical model, typically the statistical hurricane intensity forecast (SHIFOR5), or Decay-SHIFOR5 which includes a weakening component for landfall. The forecasting for hurricanes is the same for normal weather forecasting, though, weather forecasters run a model based on the tracks of past hurricanes. Doing that, forecasters are able to determine a storm’s path for five to seven days.

The application of statistics in emergency preparedness can be as simple as doing a survey of resident to see how prepared they are for disasters. One such survey found that 48% of Americans lack emergency supplies for use in disaster. The information is collected and analyzed in hopes of identifying and addressing disaster risks in order to build the community’s resilience. One may not think about such things, but local, state and national governments use surveys and questionnaires to assess likely outcomes of disasters. The use goes further: The National Statistics (U. S. Catastrophe Record 1998-2008) lists recent disasters and losses. It shows what years on record were statistically worse than others. The Compilation of Flood Loss Statistics by the National Weather Service, and it shows charts and graphs on the cost of flood damage from 1903 to present.

Lastly, statistics are used in the stock market; data from the past can be used to predict how a stock may or may not behave. A simple Google search can pull up the Dow Jones 100-year historical chart, this chart show data for the last 100 years. One can look at statistical data by president, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, live chart, or year. One example of using statistics in the stock market includes collecting data over a year and then measuring the data in accordance with standard deviation; to give a idea how the stock is behaving. The data can also be used to show how many people are investing in stocks or percent of investors who lost money in a given year or 6-month period. The data can also show reasons someone does not invest in the stock market, such as the percentage of people who do not have the money, do not know anything about stocks, are afraid that stocks are too risky. In the past, a man named Voltarie used statistics and became very rich. It wasn’t completely his idea but he is the one that gets the credit for it.

In conclusion, statistics are used in a wide variety of areas. These three are just scratching the surface. Most people want to know what the weather is going to be like tomorrow, some of us would like to be better prepared for emergency situations, and most of us would love to have a few more pennies in our pocket.